(Read Nov. 1855-4)
C. H. M.

Oahu Hawaiian Isles 12 July 54

Dear Brethren

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I hope the reports which I think were addressed precisely like the letter which you acknowledge may, ere this have reached you. Although your no. is less than at some former periods, I rejoice in the belief that it is in a good measure, flourishing.

In this field, I see much, to urge us to persevering efforts, for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause; & if not utterly deceived, I see also, a great change, which does, and forever will, redound to the glory of our God and Savior. To even a worldly mind, I should think, the change effected in 20 years, must be striking. The people have passed from the state of serfs, to that of freemen & electors; from a state approaching nudity, to that of decent attire; the gov't from the most despotic & oppressive, to a well organized and, carefully limited, monarchy; the public treasury, from a heavy debt, to a surplus. The public buildings were thatched cottages, and are now, noble & handsome, stone edifices The nation had neither schools, nor books.

Now they have a regular system of schools supported at an annual expense of $40.000 — & bringing a common school education, within the reach of all; & I believe comparatively few, of the young, are untaught. Honolulu, from a mere fishing village, of thatched huts, has risen to the rank of a city, with well planned streets; & beside the public buildings above named, is adorned with many fine stores & private dwellings, & a host of neat cottages. And by U. S. naval officers, familiar with sea ports in the Pacific, is pronounced the most orderly, quiet, & home like, of any port this side of Cape Horn. It has two congregations worshiping regularly in English and three in Hawaiian. One of the latter however is Popish. — These changes make a decided impression on those who have witnessed them. But I must confess the external change, has been far more general than the internal. This is probably true of all extensive reformations. I may have (formerly) said, national habits & characteristics, change slowly. This is probably emphatically true of nations that have been enveloped in heathenism, every where; certainly it is here of Hawaii.

This brings me to one point on which you ask for information; viz. Whether or no

the effects of their former excesses are stayed? I think in a good degree, they are, but not entirely. I believe their constitutions, are somehow, & probably in part by sexual intercourse, so enfeebled that the proportion of children born, is very small; & of these a large part die in early infancy. It has been thought, perhaps correctly, that being a small nation, & long separated from the rest of mankind, & hence closely united by blood, that this, may be one cause of weakness and barrenness. At all events, their existence as a distinct nation, seems more & more doubtful, and few of us think it will continue, over 30 or 40 years, if so long. To this painful conclusion, we have slowly & reluctantly come. I am sorry to add, the character of Reuben, "Unstable as water", seems applicable to the mass of them. There are indeed many honorable exceptions; but they are only exceptions. This is by far the most painful and the most constantly recurring subject which pastors here have to deal with. And yet I have thought there must have been a very similar state of things, in some of the communities to which Paul addressed his Epistles. Otherwise he would not have spoken, so frequently, of adultery & fornication. I think you might hear more preaching among us on these & kindred topics, in a month than in a life time, in the U.S., unless there is a change there since I left.

Dr Anderson informs us that a Popish paper charges us with encouraging this iniquity, because we live on 'the wages' of it. I doubt not you judge rightly, that the cause of slanders of this kind is 'Our work, is deadly to their's'.

As to the energy & decision of our church members, I must admit there is in most a great lack of these characteristics; & yet there are many cheering exceptions;—persons who as far as their knowledge extends seem as reliable as could be expected, some even more so. But their whole education, (I speak of the older class for all men are educated in some sort, tended to make them childish & imbecil. You ask if there was anything here, which peculiarly tended to make them so? I think there was. Beside the nature of their govt, which was nearly allied to that of a slaveholder, their very mild climate, & the very trifling efforts with which the indispensibles of life, can be obtained, all tend that way. The climate may be very similar to that of most countries within the tropics. But except in the Pacific, & perhaps some parts of Africa, I think, the efforts to secure the ordinary means of existence, must be far

more vigorous, & persevering than is here demanded. And hence, the character of converts from heathenism in those countries, would naturally have some advantage over, that of the more indolent & effeminate children of the Pacific. Often when meditating on the indolence & inefficiency of Hawaiians, have I felt, that I, & my countrymen, owe an immense debt of gratitude to our heavenly Father that we were born, where vigorous efforts, were indispensible, in order to a a comfortable existence; and where all the laws & usages tended to encourage the same. I think too that the appetite for sensual gratification is rather stronger here than in colder climates. That the physical powers of both sexes are developed 2 or 3 years earlier is generally admitted. The head strong passions of the young, & the wants of discretion in parents make sad work in the social relations. Boys and girls not half through their teens get married Hence the powers of nature are often prematurely exhausted. But that a favorable change, even on this point has been effected I think, no reasonable and well informed person, can doubt.

Still I believe our work here will be a greater blessing to future generations than to the present; and those I presume, will chiefly, be of fairer complexion. I trust we are laying the foundations of many generations, & that we have made a good beginning, the imperfections of our work notwithstanding.

We have flourishing Bible, Tract, & Missionary Societies. Respectable foreign residents assist in sustaining these. There is also the Childrens missy society concerning which I wrote you, & which this year raised about $800.— I have not the reports of the others, but considering the ravages of the smallpox last year it is thought they did well.

The whole am.t raised the last year in this kingdom exclusive of the $800— above, is about $25,000.— This includes suppo.t of pastors, church erection, missions, & circulation of the Scriptures & tracts During 6 or 7 mo.s a colporteur was employed in Honolulu at $100.— per mo. ——

The prospects of the Micronesian mission to which we contribute largely are quite encouraging, those of the Marquesas which we undertook rather discouraging. The French claim Fatuhiva where our mission is located, although no vessel of theirs is known to have been there till our brethren entered the field. Subsequently they sent a padre there, & he had begun his efforts to thwart our brethren, & should success attend their labors I presume, strenuous efforts to counteract will be made. The Lord rebuke them.

The annexation of these isles to the U.S. has been much talked of, here as well as elsewhere, & somewhat seriously thought of. But the more enlightened part of the nation apprehend danger from it. And this is not strange. Through English residents & some

others they have heard of the fate of the Indians, & the blacks there. And hence, unless hard pushed, by the French, or other enemies, they would greatly prefer independence, even imperfect, as theirs, (owing to treaties with the French,) now is. As the French now see clearly, what would probably be the result, of any violence on their part, viz annexation, or U. S. protection, they seem quite disposed to be cautious.

The 4th of this mo, July, was celebrated in Honolulu, in thorough going Yankee style. And taking somewhat of self glorification rather handsomely. An oration was delivered on the occasion by U.S. commissioner, Greg. Though said to be a reasonable & clever man he was on that occasion full of the idea, of glorifying the great republic, — the model republic. He is said to be a Papist; but this has not yet been apparent in anything which I have seen or heard of him. —

Now dear brethren, permit me to say a few words, on the duty, & privilege, of engaging in the cause, of foreign missions.

Tribes may become extinct; nations may perish but The word of the Lord, endureth forever; & just so surely, shall every one who devotes himself sincerely to this service, receive a glorious reward from Him who said Go ye into all the world, & preach the Gospel to every creature.

I am aware that some like myself, poorly qualified, either in head or heart, may be induced to enlist in this glorious cause; & until there is a full supply, of missionaries of talents as well as piety, I hold, that even men of one talent, are justified in offering their services.

I will give you two reasons for this opinion. The first & great one, is, the ever blessed Redeemers last command, seems to lay us under special obligations, to publish his Gospel, to those who are so situated that they either know not of it; or can not come to the places, where it is now preached. This last, is true of very few except slaves, in the U.S. — My 2d reason is, what I may have said in my former letter (it is a standing text with me) a remark of that venerable but departed one Dr. A. Alexander; viz that ordinarily a young man, by becoming a foreign missionary, will do as much for his own country, a he could in a whole life of active labors there; & hence, all that he does for the heathen, will be clear gain, to the cause of Christ. I never knew that dear man to make a mistake. I acted in full belief of this declaration, & praise God that I was led to. I believe I enjoy more happiness, in consequence of it, even in this life, than I otherwise could. It will probably be better for my children than if I had devoted my whole life, to provide for them. O taste, & see, that the Lord is gracious! And be assured I remain very cordially yours in Christ S. P. F. Gulick

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